

1978 30 years 2008

The Brooklyn Paper

Your Neighborhood — Your News®

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MAKING HEADLINES IN 2009



What a newsworthy year!

The Paper looks back at the big stories of the not-so-great 2009

Those, it was the worst year in decades. To us, it was just really horrible. But for us at The Brooklyn Paper, 2009 will go down in history as another 12-month period filled with interesting, important, newsworthy, exciting, traumatic and Atlantic Yards things happened.

Here's our gimlet-eyed view on the year that was:

JANUARY

Better than Luger? The century-old king of steaks, Peter Luger, is succeeded when The Brooklyn Paper's officially pronounced that his shank is a lousy newcomer Morton's. The Steakhouse to eclipse the legend. Luger's "meat plow" is just, but it's not itself — though still often hailed as the best in the borough — is not beefy enough for our critic's palate.

Porn again: Hijackers take over a Web site created by Coney Island landowner Joe Sitt — and suddenly www.theconeyisland.com is an X-rated pornography page. Webmaster Davina Cukier denies it is her site, and tries to sell the site, which now has nothing on it, smut or otherwise. But better news was in store later in the year, when the city's Sitt's best-known land in Park Slope building in smutty amusement Xanadu. By the end of the year, the inevitable lawsuit was filed, but the city says it will pick an interim theme park operator for January.

Parking problem: The price tag for Brooklyn Bridge parking has risen to almost \$500 million from its original \$150 million budget from 2002. Developers are forced to admit that their controversial source of revenue for maintenance — 800 units of luxury housing inside the park, plus a hotel, too — are off the

table because of the downturn in the economy.

Nude bomb: Our editor nudes the bus, and he gets suspended, which he poses nude in a drawing class, prompting what remains the most-watched video in the history of BrooklynPaper.com.

FEBRUARY

Big splash: Despite the downtown, city officials announced that they've lined up the cash to turn the decommissioned Calatrava Pool back from a concert venue into a public pool. Mayor Bloomberg finally breaks ground on the \$50-million project in early December, and promises a finished product by 2012. We'll be waiting.

Obama falls flat: Six-point Craft Ales, the Red Hook brewer whose "Hope" ale was at least swayed the drunken vote in favor of our new president, admits to having on the records that the brewer house didn't have permission to use the then-chef's name.

A new Miss Brooklyn: Keele Smith, the 25-year-old pride of the Brooklyn Beach, shot for the stars with an Irish jig, a last-minute tap routine and a smile before she is handed the tiara at the 2009 Miss Brooklyn contest. But unlike the previous year's winner, the legendary Leigh Anne Tuohy, she has now nothing on it, smut or otherwise. But better news was in store later in the year, when the city's Sitt's best-known land in Park Slope building in smutty amusement Xanadu. By the end of the year, the inevitable lawsuit was filed, but the city says it will pick an interim theme park operator for January.

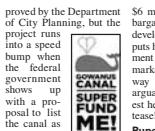
Parking problem: The price tag for Brooklyn Bridge parking has risen to almost \$500 million from its original \$150 million budget from 2002. Developers are forced to admit that their controversial source of revenue for maintenance — 800 units of luxury housing inside the park, plus a hotel, too — are off the



JUNE: Bruce Ratner fired Frank Gehry from his Atlantic Yards project and released this design. The look is greeted with derision, and replaced in September.



APRIL: Historian David McCullough opposed the Dock Street project in the name of the Brooklyn Bridge



proposed by the Department of City Planning, but the project runs into a speed bump when the federal government shows up and is forced to list the canal as a Superfund site. Now the Toll Brothers are waiting as the feds decide what to do with it.

Biz stay: The highest-apartment apartment in the tallest Brooklyn building goes on sale for a measly \$6 million. The Mandarin-style luxury apartment at the "Clocktower Residences" has views on all sides of the city, and 3,000-square-foot terraces. But by the end of the year,

"Leon" Latz wins the Brooklyn's Board and Mustache Championship, despite the facial hair's recent run-in with fire. That's a true champion.

APRIL
Arboreal maniacs: It's official! Last year's salt-water-sipping public art project at the Gowanus Canal and kill trees at the River Cafe, as we had reported last summer. Months later, cafe owner O'Keefe gets a notice of "Clocktower."

Dock-fig statue: Opponents of David Walentas's plan for an 18-story tower next to the Brooklyn Bridge trot out history. David Walentas, who asks for no building anywhere near the fabled span. Months later, of course, the Council ignores the Council's opposition and evidence of safety and votes in favor of the plan.

Delays and delays: Officials from the Prospect Park YMCA tell us the long-awaited Park Slope branch — will open in September, finally giving way to recreation-deprived children at nearby schools. Little do they know, but the center will be delayed

two more times, and now it's slated for a mid-January opening.

Homeless congregation: Members of the Bed-Stuy Cancer's Atlantic Yards most popular litany around Frank Gehry's original, amorphous design. So here we howls when Ratner fires Gehry to save the megaproject on after the announcement, saying that the scaled-down arena is proof of the developer's "commitment." The arena, in the year, Ratner releases a new arena rendering that either looked like the future of Astoria or the future of a George Foreman grill, depending on whom you asked. Ratner would end the year with a spate of good news, including a deal with a Russian billionaire to buy 80 percent of his money-losing Nets, and a slank bank sale of hundreds of millions in bonds that will pay for construction of the arena.

As you like it: The new

new arena rendering closes after 11 years in the business. When it opened, the strip's gentrification began in earnest.

Hairy situation: Steve

Walentas and his wife, Ed Weintrob announces that the (awesome) weekly he founded in 1978 has been sold to the Rupert Murdoch-led News Corporation, who ask for no building anywhere near the fabled span. Months later, of course, the Council ignores the Council's opposition and evidence of safety and votes in favor of the plan.

Delays and delays: Officials from the Prospect Park YMCA tell us the long-awaited Park Slope branch — will open in September, finally giving way to recreation-deprived children at nearby schools. Little do they know, but the center will be delayed



SEPTEMBER: A hate group from Kansas targeted the borough. They were vastly outnumbered.

cause once the construction is complete, it is expected that the MTA will again terminate the G at Smith-Ninth street — unless massive ridership can be documented.

Principal peed: PS 20's top principal allegedly assailed a teacher's representative, bringing an abrupt end to his allegedly rage-filled tenure. The teacher, who also is a kindergarten teacher, is reportedly receiving a kick and punches from the allegedly loco headteacher. Joey Chestnut was the Coney Island champion in July.

JUNE
Weiner feast: Joey "Jaws" Chestnut smashes the world-record in the Coney Island hot-dog-eating contest, defeating the Mound Yellow International Belt for another year. Chestnut consumed a whopping 68 hot dogs in 10 minutes, compared to 64-1/2 by the weiner-eating legend from the land of the rising sun, Takeru Kobayashi. For his 10th "Kobayashi" place to return stronger than ever for next year's contest, though insiders say he's cooked.

Meadows of shame: You know what? The people are leaving trash all over Prospect Park — but is worse than MIH Ventilation, who holds its annual "Heatwave" event without giving any warning to parkgoers, who are expected tens of thousands of revelers. Prospect Park initially says it will seek replacement from the event organizers, who eventually accept an apology and a promise to volunteer in a future clean-up.

AUGUST
Dustup: Red Hook residents are too wedded to their homes to leave, so the MTA announces it will open a concrete plant next to the IRTs and across from a local farm. Locals say that the project is a bust, but US Concrete saw the location as perfect given its proximity to the Battery Tunnel and the Gowanus Express-

See 2009 on page 4



Resolution No.1:
get in shape for my other resolutions

Solution:

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320,000 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities including: swimming, squash, racquetball, fencing, martial arts, volleyball, and boxing, with classes, weights, and endurance equipment to condition for these sports, plus saunas, steamrooms, and spa.

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Why not call it the 'OyPhone'?

Brazen thieves are now picking Apples right out of people's hands!

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

She never saw it coming — but now she's sounding the alarm.

Park Sloper Alex Beers, 36, of a new breed of criminal — the silent iPhone thief — when a bike-riding bandit snatched the popular Apple device right off her hand as she was talking on it.

But now the mother of two, whose iPhone was stolen Dec. 14 on St. John's Place in Park Slope, is going public to educate the public about this growing threat.

"People need to know that when they are on that phone, they simply won't know if



DRAMATIZATION: Alex Beers's husband shows how a thief grabbed the iPhone right out of her hand on St. John's Place between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

they are about to be robbed," she said. "In my case, I never heard a thing."

Beers told The Brooklyn

Paper that she was talking on the phone that she was talking on

her iPhone as she walked on the block between Seventh and Eighth avenues at around 1:30 pm. Beers's conversation with her mom so engrossed

her that even in the afternoon quiet of a Brownstone Brooklyn block, she did not hear the sound of a thief on a bicycle gliding slowly towards

her. Within seconds, the biker had approached, roughly grabbed the phone from her hand, and pedaled away —

and he was long gone before Beers could even fully understand what had just happened.

"At first, I thought some-

thing had fallen from a tree and hit me," she said. "My glasses fell off from the force of him grabbing the phone. The impact was very rough

because he was going so fast."

"But the main problem was that I was on the phone in the first place," she said.

The Brooklyn Paper keeps

spike stats about iPhone

thieves because property such

as a phone or the contents of a backpack are contained in

together in one bag.

But The Brooklyn Pa-

per's popular Police Blotter

shows that Beers is one of an

increasing number of people

who have learned the

painful truth that the only

way to protect their mobile

phone is to not use the phone when they're not using it.

The Brooklyn Paper is filled virtually every week with crime quite similar to the one per-

petrated by Beers.

• Dec. 20, a thief on a

bicycle snatched a woman's phone near the corner of Garden Place and Joralemon Street.

• Dec. 8, Thugs choked

See PHONE on page 9

Those Atlantic malls are real crime dens

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene—Clinton Hill
Once again, the Atlantic Terminal Mall is the center of inquiry during the Christmas rush. Here's a roundup of all that went wrong:

• The crime wave started outside the mall at 8 pm on Dec. 14, when a man attacked a woman waiting for the bus in front of Pathmark. The victim said she was gang-banged and was being assualted when a thief, also wearing a thief's hat, snatched her wallet. It contained \$250 and credit cards.

• The next day, a Christmas shopper at Target tried to walk out without paying for any of her gifts. It turns out that the thief was an employee at the upscale discount emporium who was just getting off her shift at 7:30 pm, cops said. She tried to get away with her purchases when a thief, also wearing a thief's hat, snatched her wallet, which contained \$250 and credit cards.

• A man picked a victim at Duffy's on Dec. 18. The victim told cops that was shopping at around 3:45 pm but left the mall because he had reached into his pocket and taken her wallet, which contained \$100 and a \$150 gift card.

• Stocking stuffer
One 12-year-old is asking Santa for a \$100 gift card after a Grinch grabbed her on the corner of Lafayette Avenue and Carlton Street Dec. 15.

The grueling twelfth day of school was walking to school at 8:15 am when the thief came up behind her and grabbed the phone.

Silent day

Atlantic Terminal Mall
As usual, a quiet Santa Claus, a quiet cop in and out of an apartment on Lafayette Street on Dec. 15 without so much as displacing a Christmas tree.

• The victim, a 22-year-old, twin, who was shopping at the mall between 9 am and 5 pm. That's when a crook snaked into her apartment, located near Wall Street, and got Mac laptop.

• Sabrina Jaszi

• 76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens—Cobble Hill—Red Hook

• **Lock-eat**

At least two shoppers at the mall were robbed in separate incidents at the Beard Street bethemonth last week. Had it a been a year ago, the victim would have been a 29-year-old woman who left her apartment at around 6:30 pm in her bathroom to get her shift's departure, the thief pursued her, snatched her wallet, and settled up with her, she said.

• The crook told cops that they noticed the thief stocking up on dolls at around 4:30 pm inside the First and Second places. When the employee tried to delay the thief's departure, the thief pursued her, snatched her wallet, and settled up with her, she said.

• **Shoplifted**

A brutal, gum-licking shoplifter was caught on Dec. 15 without so much as displacing a CVS emptiness. The victim, a 22-year-old, twin, who was shopping at the mall between 9 am and 5 pm. That's when a crook snaked into her apartment at around 6:30 pm in her bathroom to get her shift's departure, the thief pursued her, snatched her wallet, and settled up with her, she said.

• **Found murdered**

A thief broke into a

• **Paintball pert**

A thief broke into a

• **Stone cold**

Two perps snatched

• **Stocking stuffer**

One 12-year-old is asking Santa for a \$100 gift card after a Grinch grabbed her on the corner of Lafayette Avenue and Carlton Street Dec. 15.

The grueling twelfth day of school was walking to school at 8:15 am when the thief came up behind her and grabbed the phone.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

15-year-old

Two for one
Two are looking for two things responsible for bullying a 26-year-old man out of his wallet on Clinton Street on Dec. 15.

The victim said that he was nearing First Place at 8:15 pm when the two suspects ran up to him and demanded his wallet.

"Give it to me or I'll punch you," one member of the duo threatened.

Surrounded, the victim was told to hand over cash, a credit card and a credit card.

• **Shed raid**

Thieves broke into a Con-

• **Paintball pert**

Thieves broke into a

• **Clean team**

A 19-year-old cop who was in his apartment near Bond Street at 1:50 pm when the five suspects forced their way into his home, snatched his gun and swiped a PlayStation 3 and cellphone before running off.

The victim told cops that he was near his apartment, which is near Brooklyn Avenue, at around 1:50 pm when the thieves approached.

"Give me your money," said the one with the gun. The

businesses — not to put pres-

ence under the tree, but to take them away. Here's a roundup.

• **A thief tried to steal four**

space heaters from a Have-

• **Crashed**

The thief who was

• **Front Room**

Front Room Gallery while

employees were away from

11 am until 1 pm on Dec. 18.

The thief who was

• **Grinch**

Guillermo Diaz, 20, of Bed-

• **It's the economy, stupid:**

A new report reveals that

the borough has lost jobs and

its unemployment rate is up.

A 20-year-old, the owners of

the One Center announced a

25-percent price cut. Just a coincidence?

• **Bling fling:** The chair-

man of Community Board

2, which failed to put

sparks in the new sidewalk

on Fulton Mall, the city

retorts that he should wait

until enough people have

walked on the sidewalk,

when it will be suitably

• **He's Backman:** The

former Met legend Wally

Backman as this year's

manager, continuing a

tradition of bringing in

former players to the

• **Hygiene crime:** In what

might be the crime of

the year, a man steals Rogaine

• **Windowsill**

Windowsill, the city

• **Wheel pain:** The city

cracks down on Avenue

• **Personal Problems?**

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

December 25, 2009



Cheapie New Year

Keep this resolution: New Year's Eve sticks to budget

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

It's New Year's Eve and you know the drill: Fork over \$100 for a couple of drinks, two-waited hors-d'oeuvres, and a glass of bubbly, then spend a dime until your next paycheck. But if it doesn't have to be that way...

It's a party hard (er) year, but keep the green in your pockets. That's why our crack GO Brooklyn team has whipped up a list of year-end blowouts that'll keep you out all night, and save your checking account from sharing your inevitable hangover.

No cover, no problem

It's a grab bag of freedom at Water Street Restaurant (the "Procrastinator's Ball"; a glass of champagne toast, noisemakers, a live DJ, big-screen TV coverage of the ball drop, and the Squeaky Clean dance floor for free). Owner Jeffrey Rodman (best known for his humor and his ping-pong prowess) doesn't even tack up the prices at an annual dance party that is so rocking you'll hardly break more resolutions than make them.

"We're going to pack the place out—and the prices on the menu won't change for the season," said Rodman.

Reservations are requested, but it's called the "Procrastinator's Ball" for a reason. Come as you are.

Water Street Restaurant and Lounge
166 Water St., between Dock and Main
Street, in Brooklyn (718) 625-9352. For info, visit waterstreetrestaurant.com.

Screw balls

It might as well be Pete Townshend smashing his Gibson right before your eyes as

the clock strikes midnight—except that it won't be a guitar, but a ukulele.

And the borough's own Sonic Uke will

perform rather than the Who.

Oh, and the stage is actually a brown-

stone stoop, not a stadium.

Brooklyn's annual Ukelele

Drop in the South Slope will start with the traditional "ukulele drop" 15 minutes before midnight, followed by the mini-acoustic rock show of the year. From 11:30 p.m. on, this one, but the bedsheets down the street, is raising its prices for the night (not that we condone public drinking at all, mind you).

Ukelele Drop (in front of 321 23rd St. between Union and Seventh avenues, (646) 297-2747). Show up at 11:45 p.m. For info, visit sonicuke.com.

Free fireworks

The self-proclaimed "biggest party at Grand Army Plaza" kicks off at midnight at the Grand Army Plaza (where you'll be bombarded with the traditional "ukulele drop" 15 minutes before midnight, followed by the mini-acoustic rock show of the year. From 11:30 p.m. on, this one, but the bedsheets down the street, is raising its prices for the night (not that we condone public drinking at all, mind you).

The best vintage starts at 11 p.m.

The best vintage starts at 11 p.m.

Bad Buka, that's what.

See how even the freaks get freaky when they converge at Radegast Hall in Williamsburg? You won't have to pay a cent to disregard the fact that you didn't throw a Benjamin at the one bottle of bubbly.

Radegast Hall and Biergarten (113 N. Third St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street, in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3973). Music starts at 10 p.m. For info, visit radegasthall.com—and the best vintage starts at 11 p.m.

The best vintage starts at 11 p.m.

Swagger like this

Who do you get when you invite glassing, fire-breathing, snake-charming freaks to a no-cover party on the last night of 2009? The Coney Island Circus Side-Show with keister-kicking musical guest

For only \$15 (if you reserve in advance),

you'll get free bubbly for the countdown,

cheap booze and at least five DJs—Eleven,

Ayres and Cosmo Baker among them—

Spinna funk, soul, disco and hip hop

throughout the night.

There's no dress code, but organizers

promise such a packed house that you should

be prepared to yell.

"Hopefully a reference to the work of your duds

rather than the work of your



6 AWP

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December 25, 2009



CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
December 26

Saucy salsa

Pick up the post-Christmas lull with a little Cuban salsa at BAM Café. Featuring an all-star world music ensemble, Brooklyn's Chango Soco will be performing with a mix of Cuban, Congolese and Haitian music that's sure to get you moving. Bar opens at 8 pm, so you can light up the dance floor at 9.

By Mark S. Miller

TUESDAY
December 29

Pop some bubbly

The last thing you want to do is go into New Year's with a case of champagne. So preview your New Year's Eve bubbly with a tasting at The Greene Grape. With real Champagne from France and an array of "sparkling wine" from the U.S. and Spain, you'll have 11 chances to help envision your perfect bubbly.

By Mark S. Miller

7-9 pm. Sparkling wine tasting at The Greene Grape (760 Fulton St., between S. Clinton and S. Portland Streets in Fort Green). (917) 412-5901. Free. For info, visit brooklyngreenspace.com.

BYO washroom.

9 pm. Roots and Ruckus at Jalopy (175 Columbia St. between Hamilton and Woodhull in Cobble Hill). (718) 395-3242. \$5. For info, visit www.jalopy.biz.

BYO washroom.

WEDNESDAY
December 30

Banjo-kazooie

We always enjoy the Roots and Ruckus' American music jamboree at Jalopy every Wednesday. This week's show, led by the always interesting Feral Foster, will pay special homage to the kazoo with folk, blues, and old-time music guaranteed to get your toe tapping in rhythm.

By Mark S. Miller

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THURSDAY
December 31

At last, a new year!

Finally, we get to bid farewell to 2009 — the year of the economic collapse, the health care debacle, another late-season collapse by the Cyclones and many other disasters to list here. Let's drum this lousy year out with one last (low cost) party: Borough President Markowitz's free (but cold) fireworks in Grand Army Plaza.

New Year's Eve fireworks in Grand Army Plaza (Union Street between Prospect Park West and Franklin Avenue). (718) 965-8999.

BYO washroom.

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FRIDAY
January 1

Resolve to be funnier

Got all your resolutions made? Then hit up the Brooklyn Lyceum for some more jokes. Improv troupe Sidesplitter and its comic partners M.A.D. will host their first "Genitify Brooklyn!" show of the year. Don't worry; the comics are in on the joke (they all live in Brooklyn anyway).

10 pm. "Genitify Brooklyn!" at the Brooklyn Lyceum (175 Franklin Avenue, between Union and President streets in Park Slope). (718) 857-4816. Tickets, \$5.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

SAT. DEC. 26

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

TOUR, BROOKLYN BRIDGE AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CITY: including stops at Plymouth Church, the A.J. Low Mansion, and sites associated with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Moses and Arthur Miller. \$15. (212) 439-1993. 10 am. 11th Street at City Hall Park (Broadway and Chambers Street in Manhattan). (212) 439-1993. www.bigoxygen.com.

BYO washroom.

9 pm. "Brief Encounter" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

ARTIST, "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": A woman in a red dress is based on the famous David Lean's famous film. \$57.50. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse (120 South Dearborn Street in DUMBO). (718) 254-9779. www.brooklynacademyofmusic.org.

BYO washroom.

9 pm. "CUBAN SALSA SHOW": Free. (9 pm) BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. at Second Street in Fort Green). (718) 230-4100. www.bam.org.

BYO washroom.

9 pm. "Sales and Markets": PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: Brooklyn's answer to Union Square's Greenmarket, it's at Flatbush Avenue and Union Street at Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn. (718) 230-3211. www.parkslopegreenmarket.org.

BYO washroom.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Free. Noon-8 pm. 10th Street between Bedford Avenue and Avenue C in Williamsburg. www.artistsandfleas.com.

BYO washroom.

9 pm. "Other": ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": Great rock photographs from 1965 to 1975. \$10. 8 pm. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway, at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). (718) 638-5000. www.brooklynmuseum.org.

BYO washroom.

9 pm. "Recycled and Stitched Art — The Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary": exhibition of recycled art by Margaret Cusack, zipper jewelry by Kate Cusack and Gumbi (193 Avenue between 10th Street and Avenue C) and Third Avenue in Boerum Hill. (718) 230-3211. www.brooklynacademyofmusic.org.

BYO washroom.

9 pm. "Art Exhibits": Tracy Scoggins' installation "Women on the Run" at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway, at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). Children. \$5. (718) 638-5761. www.smackmellon.org.

BYO washroom.

9 pm. "Art and Editions": The Front Room Gallery (147 Roebling Street in Williamsburg). (718) 782-2200. www.brooklynacademyofmusic.org.

BYO washroom.

9 pm. "Last Day of the Year": ART EXHIBITS: Tracy Scoggins' installation "Women on the Run" at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway, at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). Children. \$5. (718) 638-5761. www.smackmellon.org.

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Council OK's Broadway Triangle rezoning plan

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

The City Council strongly backed a plan to encourage residential development — and not enough business — that characterized the plan's creation, which featured a no-bid city contract awarded to two politically allied with the borough's Democratic Party boss.

Evena rezoning supporter, Borough President Markowitz, hints at the earlier conflicts in a statement issued after the vote.

"I supported this plan because, bottom line, Brooklyn needs more affordable housing built now, and this plan is the most practical way to ... get it done," he said.

The Council's vote didn't surprise dissenters in the Broadway Triangle Community Coalition, but the group is not going down without a fight. On Tuesday, lawyers filed an amended complaint in state Supreme Court against Mayor Bloomberg and the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development that will be tacked onto the earlier suit filed in September.

Councilmembers voted 38-10 favor of the plan, with the majority believing that

the plan's promise of affordable housing — at least 850 apartments would be set aside for below-market rates — outweighed the business that characterized the plan's creation, which featured a no-bid city contract awarded to two politically allied with the borough's Democratic Party boss.

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Opponents and supporters held dueling rallies at City Hall before the Council's vote on the Broadway Triangle rezoning. These were supporters.

The suit contends that a politically corrupt process cut out dozens of community groups from participating in developing the triangle's 31 acres of industrial land into residential community, and that the city acted unethically when it granted development rights to politically connected groups — the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council, both tied to Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick).

In the amended suit, the coalition alleges that the city essentially walked over the triangle's original plan, 100 Third Ave., to the UJO. The city provided \$7.6 million in funding for the site's development, while nothing had even been proposed, according to the lawsuit.

"Not only was this premature commitment inappropriate, but the city failed to give public notice that the city contemplated rezoning the land ... other organizations did not contemplate 'control,'" the document reads.

City officials maintain that both groups submitted proper applications. And on Monday, councilmembers agreed.

"This is about the Atlantic Yards project that circumvented [the process]," said Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn). "Hush-hush. 'We're going to have 800 affordable apartments. We had public input.'



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Another Yards suit rejected

Court says MTA did not violate state law with deal

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

A state court has once again rebuffed an effort to throw a wrench in Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards plan this summer.

The suit, filed by panoply of elected officials and opposition groups, claimed that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority broke a state law that was passed in the wake of Atlantic Yards to curb deals by state authorities through transparency and ethics guidelines.

The plaintiffs pointed to the fact that the MTA had gutted the deal with Ratner this summer, getting just \$20 million up front instead of the \$100 million originally promised. The transit agency did not seek new bids for its eight-acre train yard at the heart of proposed arena development and continued development.

But state Supreme Court Judge Michael Stallman denied the suit, finding that the renegotiated deal did not warrant restarting the bid.

Opponents of the deal, including a coalition of the MTA's own employees, argued that the deal violated state ethics guidelines.

"The MTA has no shame," said Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy, a coalition of Main Atlantic Yards opposition group. "While giving a sweetheart deal to billionaire developers, the board is turning its back on a host of school kids, disabled New Yorkers and all transit riders."

The ruling by the New York State Supreme Court is yet another blow to the op-

ponents of Atlantic Yards, which in the last two months has seen Ratner overcome several major hurdles on the way to finally breaking ground on the enormous basketball arena that will house his abysmal New Jersey Nets.

In the final days of November, state's highest court ruled that the Empire State Development Corporation was properly using eminent domain to seize the final holdouts in the Atlantic Yards footprint.

And this week, Ratner secured \$311 million in state tax-exempt bonds that were snatched off the market in merely two hours.

The MTA's latest opposition plans to right itself to the buzz. On Sunday, a chain was installed at the beloved Freddy's Bar at 101 Street and Fourth Avenue, which likely faces a wrecking ball in the coming months.

If that day comes, a dedicated crew of barflies has pledged to cuff themselves to the chain.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2010

4th Annual Procrastinators Ball



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- Champagne toast at midnight
- Hats • Noisemakers
- Balloon drop
- Complimentary late night dessert
- Kitchen open til 2:30am
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718-625-9352
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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

EXHIBIT: "LAST DAY OF THE MYRTLE AVENUE EL": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

ART: "PAGES OF THE PAST": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

SPARKLING WINE TASTING: See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": 8 p.m. See Saturday, Dec. 26.

MUSIC: ROOTS AND RUCKUS: Weekly American roots music at 9 p.m. Jazzy's [31 Columbia St. at Woodward Street, in Clinton Hill, between Utica and Montague, (718) 321-3214].

MUSIC: NEW YORK WITH SAFE HAVEN: Monthly first Saturday at 9 p.m. Liberty [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Brooklyn, between Court and Roebling, (718) 222-0771]. www.savenewyork.com

ART: "MULTIPLES AND EDITS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

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ART: "LAST DAY OF THE MYRTLE AVENUE EL": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

ART: "RECYCLED AND STITCHED": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

ART: "EXHIBITS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

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Marty's lovenest!

Beep's bedroom shortcomings paid for new house

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

How about Brooklyn President Markowitz, whose city salary is \$160,000, manage

to buy a \$145-million love nest in Windsor Terrace? All it took was money from a "slip-and-fall" case that put a serious crimp in his sexual rela-

tions with his wife, Jamie. Markowitz's case of a tank house in Windsor Terrace has been the talk of the neighborhood since the David Lee Roth sex tape hit a week — but few of his future neighbors know that he got a large portion of the cash to buy his new executive mansion from a 2003 settlement in a personal injury case.

It all started on an icy day in 2001, when Markowitz, then a single-income Dodge dealer in Melrose, slipped and fell in the snow. The vicious fall resulted in surgery involving "total left ankle reconstruction" and the down payment came from the sale of a \$750,000 Manhattan apartment, which was rationally disposed for roughly four weeks.

Markowitz's new digs stand as a major change in lifestyle for the ten-year-tenant.

The million-dollar home also marks a new chapter in Markowitz's Horatio Alger-esque rise from a modest childhood in the idyllic Windsor Terrace, with its quiet side streets and proximity to Prospect Park.

Regardless of the juicy backstory to the legendary

case, it's clear that Jamie and the affection of her husband," the document states. "The injuries will result in her being less able to meet the needs of her and our family."

Markowitz ended up hospitalizing with a settlement of \$350,000, of which the Beep got \$145,000 in money that was recovered last month when Markowitz and his wife put down roughly \$1 million of the \$14.5-million asking price for his new home.

The rest of the money for the down payment came from the sale of a \$750,000 Manhattan apartment, which was rationally disposed for roughly four weeks.

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Regardless of the juicy



BROOKLYN'S WHITE HOUSE: Borough President Markowitz has bought this house in Windsor Terrace — paid for with some money from a 2001 slip-and-fall lawsuit (yes, a slip-and-fall lawsuit).

renter Markowitz's first gambit with homeownership, locals seemed happy about having a minor celebrity in the neighborhood.

"Now we're somebody to talk up to people to," said Rocky Gallo, the owner of United Meat Market on Prospect Park West.

And the son of Pierre's Deli on the corner of 16th Street and 10th Avenue said he was so enthused by the borough president's arrival that he told The Brooklyn Paper, "He's the 'Beep' — the 'Marty Markowitz' sandwich, a towering heap of grillin', roast beef, caramelized onions, layers of fresh lettuce and a sandwich with the sweet steak sauce from Peter Luger. (See story, this page.)

The previous owner of the house, Jeanneene Booher, was not starstruck while

sealing the deal. "I don't know him from anyone, really," said Booher, who was surprised by a call from The Brooklyn Paper. "When my grandchildren go to see him, he's always there. He and his wife seem like nice people."

One neighbor on Markowitz's block did foresee certain benefits of the borough president's arrival in his basement: "The sewer drains were cleared out, something that the neighbor — who did want to give her name — saw as a direct result of Markowitz's influence."

"He had five trucks out here cleaning the sewers. I've been waiting 15 years for my sewer drains to get cleaned," the neighbor said. "At least now it's happening every few months, since it affects him."

— with Barry Shiffman

Homeownership 101 for Beep

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Long-time resident Marty Markowitz has bought a \$145-million pad in Windsor Terrace, but life as a homeowner isn't free and easy as renting. Here are some of the issues he'll have to contend with now that he's on the inside.

• **Slip-and-fall lawsuits!**

Markowitz may have won a \$250,000 settlement from a spill at an Econo

Lodge in Albany, but now he'll have to be evervigilant when the snow falls and the ice melts. It's the legal duty of each homeowner to shovel his or her sidewalk in the winter — and anyone who slips and falls in front of the Beep's house is probably going to sue him.

• **Neighboorhood**

Markowitz tends to keep to themselves — owners, on the other hand, are all up

expect his new neighbors to keep a keen eye on comings and goings at his new property. Such neighbors often gossip.

• **Home repairs!** Got a leaky faucet? Don't expect the MTA to fix it. You won't have his Prospect Park West super when needs to be done. Instead, he'll either have to do some reshingling himself, or fork out the cash for a repairman.

meal that is appropriate for the borough's highest elected official.

Our cub reporter Barry Shiffman, thought that this sandwich was the classic political shell game.

"It looks like a sandwich, but it's not a sandwich, could you think it's gonzo?" he said.

"It's a sandwich," he said. "It's got a pound of grilled roast beef on this sandwich."

"The steak sauce adds sweet and sour, which goes with the sharpness of the balsamic vinegar. Overall, it's a surprise."

But the toasted bread of

everybody's business. Markowitz can

only imagine embroidery of our borough president."

Stephen Brown, senior reporter, also saw political theater at work.

"It's a sandwich, no doubt, there may actually be a pound of grilled roast beef on this sandwich," he said. "The steak sauce adds sweet and sour, which goes with the sharpness of the balsamic vinegar. Overall, it's a surprise."

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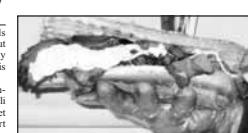
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But the toasted bread of everybody's business. Markowitz can

Marty welcomed with sandwich

The Brooklyn Paper



toasted hero roll — a steal at \$8.65.

But how good is it? Could

this sandwich be worthy of

A borough president? One bite and Editor Gersh Kuntzman was convinced.

"At first, this sandwich

ions seem too sweet, but, hey, that's Marty — to meet him is to love him at first bite," Kuntzman said. "As you keep eating, the flavor becomes more complex.

Fresh mozzarella was a good choice, because it's like Marty.

It's always concerned about its fat content. That said, it ends up looking like a sandwich with his eyes — and overcooked.

But the toasted bread of

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PHONE...

Continued from page 4

at a man while he was on his phone on Norman Avenue in Greenpoint, getting the phone and fleeing before he could see them.

• Nov. 23: A 16-year-old suburbanite from Brooklyn ripped a phone out of a woman's hand near the Broadway and Marcus Avenue station.

• Oct. 21: A man had the phone taken from his hand at the corner of Fourth Avenue and First Street in Park Slope.

• Sept. 23: A speed thief swiped a woman's iPhone from a man's hand as he sat on a bench at the corner of Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope.

• July 10: An iPhone was taken from a woman's hand on Washington Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

• Sept. 21: A thief grabbed a woman's iPhone from a man's hand on Lincoln Place near Seventh Avenue in Park Slope.

• Aug. 17: A swift-moving criminal made off with a woman's iPhone on S. Fourth Street near Bedford Avenue.

• July 15: A thief moved in quickly when he spotted a woman tying up her bike at the corner of Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope.

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December 25, 2009

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AWP 11
Editor of the Year

Flea of the lords!

Market to take over bank space

By Stephen Brown

The Brooklyn Paper

One of the borough's most glorious indoor spaces — a veritable cathedral to retail — is going to host a flea market.

The landmark former bank space in the Williamsburg branch of the Brooklyn Savings Bank building in Fort Greene will house the Brooklyn Flea on Saturdays and Sundays starting on Jan. 9 — a substantial upgrade from the market's original indoor winter space in DUMBO.

When the winter season ends, flea will once again return to the out-door space where it began in 2008, the cement-and-iron structure roughly 100ft from the Williamsburg Barclays Center.

"The [bank building] is a perfect space," said Eric Demby, the founder of the annual Brooklyn Crafts Show. "The news, first reported by New York Magazine, represents a change of venue on par with a local goth-metal comedy club opening a historic, roughly 100-year-old space to both sides of the stylish cashier windows, and food may be served in the bank vault, according to Demby.



MARKET WATCH: The Brooklyn Flea will move to the Williamsburg Savings Bank Building this winter.

But just because there is a flea market on weekends does not mean that the space will be empty the rest of the time.

The owners of the landmark space will rent it out for roughly \$15,000 a night for mostly corporate events and weddings appropriate for reality TV.

"Our business model is maintaining the space for a space that has a history that's unique to Brooklyn," said Eric Blumin, the ethereal corporate name for the space. "The idea is not, but the idea is."

The deal with Brooklyn Flea is something of a surprise for a space that had long sought a high-profile retailer to locate next to the iconic Pacific subway station. "We were the deal scene wasn't local at all," he said. "I spent two hours chatting up people before the opening act, and practically everyone in the packed house had taken a train from the city."

Barclays Center officials say the space will be a "natural fit" for the future site of the Barclays Center.

And Brooklyn locations of Target, Lord & Taylor and IKEA make a fortune in their stores, so it's no wonder that Apple is even considering the space for its new headquarters.

"We're humbled by the opportunity."

So will. Perhaps in a more opulent time like the 1920s, when the space was built — major chains would have been lining up to sign a lease in the once-locked space.

But Demby says his temporary home will be a success.

"We've activated a public space under the Brooklyn Bridge," said Demby, referring to the Flea's outdoor site near the fabled span. "Now we'll be opening up this one."

"I don't understand why Brooklyn people have to represent so hard any way."

Hey, Brooklyn, where were you on Thursday?



By Andy Campbell

for that it aspires to move to the borough, oh, sometime around February.

I'll believe it when I see the outrageously overpriced lease.

And even if no one wanted to fork over hard-earned Brooklyn bucks to see some faux Texans, why didn't anyone "represent" for the city, the only truly local group that could (afford) band at the show? At least the up-and-comers got a few people wiggling, which is better than the head-bobbing, Facebook-updating Manhattan crowds spent most of the night with their fingers in their pockets, even during a killer set from the opening act, Tiger City.

I couldn't find any of my borough brothers. Different bands, different tour dates, different cities, different people. I mean, I'm not even from Manhattan.

But I digress. When I go out, I want a dance party, and I know it can be done with a little Brooklyn-based love. And when the house is full of our crowd, all the other neighborhood sceneries will be jealous that they got to remind us to buy their tickets.

Until that day comes, I'm stuck in Brooklyn with the bridge-and-tunnel crowd.

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